

# WorkFirst Local Area Planning

December 2006

## LPA Partnerships:

*Asotin/Garfield Counties  
Benton/Franklin Counties  
Chelan/Douglas Counties  
Clark/Skamania County  
Clallam County - Forks  
Clallam County - Port Angeles  
Grant/Adams Counties  
Grays Harbor/Pacific Counties  
King Eastside  
King South  
King North  
Kitsap County  
Klickitat County  
Lewis County  
Lower Columbia  
Mason County  
Okanogan County  
Pierce County  
Port Townsend/East Jefferson  
County  
Rainier/Capitol Hill/Belltown  
Renton  
Skagit/San Juan Counties and  
Camano Island  
North Snohomish County  
South Snohomish County  
Spokane/Lincoln Counties  
Thurston County  
Tri-Counties  
Walla Walla/Columbia Counties  
Whatcom County  
Whidbey Island  
White Center  
Yakima/Kittitas Counties*

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For more information about the  
WorkFirst program, visit  
[www.workfirst.wa.gov](http://www.workfirst.wa.gov)

## **What is WorkFirst Local Area Planning?**

Local Area Planning (LPA) is a forum for the development of partnerships that operate WorkFirst at the local level. Through communication, collaboration, resource sharing and continuous program improvement, the WorkFirst program has been successful in providing services that reflect local needs. Local Area Planning, part of the original WorkFirst legislation, continues to be a vital part of the program's success.

## **What are Local Area Planning partnerships?**

The 32 Local Area Planning partnerships (LPAs) are made up of representatives from local and state agencies, community and technical colleges, nonprofit organizations, tribes, contractors and other community partners that serve those most in need. The Office of Financial Management is the state level WorkFirst partner providing staff support and technical assistance to all local planning bodies. Each LPA is required to prepare an annual Continuous Quality Improvement Plan, describing strategies they will focus on during the coming year. The plans focus partnership efforts to meet the needs of local WorkFirst families and the Governor's WorkFirst performance measures. The plans are considered works in progress and are updated throughout the year to reflect the changing needs of the program.

## **What do Local Area Planning partnerships do?**

LPAs meet regularly, throughout the year, to review their plans and performance data, discuss program issues, develop strategies to increase outcomes, and solve problems. Through this network, partners increase awareness of changing program expectations, new resources, and community needs. LPA partnerships work with other LPAs to share promising practices and learn new ways to engage parents in services designed to help them go to work and better provide for their families.

## **What new initiatives have been developed locally?**

Resources are available to LPAs by request to support partnership, service innovation and program performance.

## **Examples of LPA Projects:**

- Dependable Strengths Training
- Cultural Awareness Training
- Job Fairs for Limited English Proficient Jobseekers
- Engaging Customers Training
- Partnership Educational Events
- Helping Employ Ex-offenders